

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HUD-02
HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05
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TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1659
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECD

BONN PASS EPA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM
SECSTATE PASS EPA, COMMERCE, CEQ, FDA, OSHA, CPSC, DOI
BURSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV OECD
SUBJECT: OECD 15TH MEETING CHEMICALS GROUP, NOV. 2-5, 1977
SUMMARY REPORT FROM I. FULLER TO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM.

1. 15TH MEETING OF OECD CHEMICALS GROUP CHAIRED BY
LOWELL MILLER, EPA, RESULTED IN MAJOR COMMITMENT BY
MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR CREATION OF PROGRAM FOR HARMONIZA-
TION OF TESTING METHODS. SIX COUNTRIES VOLUNTEERED TO
LEAD VARIOUS EXPERT GROUPS IN COORDINATED EFFORT TO
EVALUATE EXISTING AND PLANNED TESTING PROCEDURES AND
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STEP SEQUENCE TESTING SYSTEMS FOR PREDICTIVE CAPABILITY
CONCERNING EXPOSURE AND EFFECTS. GROUPS WILL DEFINE BASE
LINE SET OF DATA FOR INITIAL TESTING, ESTABLISH CRITERIA
FOR INITIATING ADDITIONAL STEPS IN SEQUENCE AND EVALUATE
POSSIBILITIES FOR HARMONIZATION. MOST EXPERTS WILL VISIT
U.S. IN LATE FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS AND EVALUATE US TESTING
PROACTICES AND PLANS. EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES REPS

PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY AND AGREED TO CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO OECD GROUP MEETINGS. BOTH DANISH AND GERMAN EXPERTS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING. US IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO ACCELERATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ATTEMPT TO KEEP PACE WITH TSCA DEADLINES.

2. HARMONIZATION EFFORT (REFERRED TO AS OECD CHEMICAL TESTING PROGRAM) WILL BUILD ON WORK OF BERLIN MEETING BUT GREATLY EXPANDS LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN US AND GERMANY. RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD COUNTRIES FOLLOW:

A) GERMANY WILL LEAD GROUP ON PHYSICAL CHEMICAL PROPERTIES. PLANS JAN. MEETING IN FRG WHERE EXISTING LISTS WILL BE REVIEWED TO REDUCE THE CURRENT 20-30 PERCENT INTERNATIONAL VARIANCE (NOTE THIS GROUP HAS GOOD PROSPECT OF EARLY AGREEMENT POSSIBLY AT WASHINGTON MEETING IN FEBRUARY)

B) GERMANY AND JAPAN WILL COCHAIR GROUP ON DEGRADATION-ACCUMULATION WITH FRG CONCENTRATING ON ALL BIOTIC PLUS BIOTIC TERRESTRIAL ACCUMULATION. JAPAN WILL LEAD WORK ON BIOTIC DEGRADATION AND AQUEOUS BIOTIC ACCUMULATION. DUE TO RESTRICTIONS IN JAPANESE BUDGET, 1ST MEETING NOT PLANNED UNTIL APRIL IN TOKYO WHERE THEY WILL REVIEW VARIOUS NATIONAL WORK DONE SINCE 1970, DRAFT SKELETON OF FINAL REPORT SO AS TO FOCUS WORK AND SELECT

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LIMITED NUMBER OF KNOWN CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO EQUILIBRATE DEGRADATION TESTS IN MOVE TOWARD COMPARABILITY OF SYSTEMS. DANISH EXPERT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS GROUP. NOTE: GIVEN JAPANESE BARRIERS OF LANGUAGE, DISTANCE AND TRAVEL FUNDS - FISCAL YEAR ENDS IN MARCH - STRONG GERMAN ROLE OFFERS BEST HOPE FOR EARLY ACTION IN THIS AREA. IN RELATED DISCUSSION JAPANESE REQUESTED JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING WITH U.S. TAKE PLACE IN JUNE/JULY INSTEAD OF SEPT/OCT AND THAT PROJECT ON IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES COCHAIRERED BY DRS. FUJI AND WARREN MUIR TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTERWARD WITH CONCENTRATION ON TESTING.

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C) NETHERLANDS WILL LEAD GROUP ON ECOTOXICOLOGY WHICH
WILL DEAL WITH SELECTION OF TESTS FOR DETERMINING IMPACT
OF CHEMICALS ON BIOTIC COMMUNITIES OTHER THAN MAN. IT
WILL EXAMINE EFFECTS ON THE COHABITATION OF SPECIES
(RELATIVE BIO MASS) AND FOOD CHAIN AND CONSIDER TARGET
SYSTEMS. SINCE ACUTE TOXICITY IS NOT GENERALLY MOST
PREVALENT EFFECT IN ENVIRONMENT, VALUE OF SINGLE ORGANISM
TESTING QUESTIONED. CHAIRMAN PLANS TO DISSEMINATE A
SUGGESTED SET OF PRINCIPLES IN DECEMBER AND WILL CALL FOR
1ST MEETING IN JANUARY. ANALYSIS OF EXISTING TEST
METHODS, THEIR DURATION, COMPARATIVE COSTS, VARIOUS
TEST ORGANISMS WILL BE CONCLUDED BY MAY 1978, RESULTING
CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO ANALYSE AND SORT OUT GROUPS OF
TESTS AND PRODUCE A CRITICAL CATALOG OF TESTS BY SPRING
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OF 1979. BEST METHODS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES SHOULD BE
AGREED ON BY AUTUMN 1979 (NOTE: IF THIS TIMING PRESENTS
PROBLEM FOR TSCA IMPLEMENTATION U.S. SHOULD NOTIFY
CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO JANUARY MEETING AND SUGGEST ALTERNATE
PLAN). DR. WALLEN POINTED TO NEED TO SELECT SURROGATES
FOR BIO MASS IN THE MANNER IN WHICH HUMAN TOXICOLOGY
UTILIZES RATS AND MICE. CHAIRMAN AGREED ON NEED TO
SELECT KEY SPECIES BUT REITERATED BELIEF IN DUBIOUS

VALUE OF SINGLE SPECIES ACUTE TOXICITY WHEN DEALING WITH ECOLOGY.

(NOTE: CHAIRMAN FELT FEBRUARY WAS TOO EARLY FOR VISIT TO WASHINGTON BUT URGED U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN JANUARY MEETING IN NETHERLANDS), JAPAN PROMISED TO SEND DATA CONCERNING THEIR PLANT GROWTH INHIBITION TESTS.

D) U.K. AND U.S. WILL CHAIR GROUPS ON SHORT AND LONG TERM TOXICOLOGY RESPECTIVELY. PROPOSE JOINT MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY TO RESOLVE OVERLAPS AND TO ALLOW MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF EXPERTS IN TERATOLOGY, MUTAGENICITY AND CARCINOGENICITY. PLAN TO DRAW UP AND CIRCULATE ISSUE PAPERS PRIOR TO FEB. MEETING. WILL INVITE W.H.O. AND F.A.O. PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS INTERESTED COUNTRIES. U.S. GROUP UNDERTOOK TO MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH N.C.I., NIOSH, ETC, REVIEW PUBLISHED PROTOCOLS SUCH AS CANADIAN, NCI, AND CONSIDER SUCH FACTORS AS NUMBER AND SEQUENCE OF TESTS, RELEVANCE AND NUMBER OF SPECIES, PREDICTABILITY AND HUMAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA. F.R.G. AND NETHERLANDS WHO WILL BOTH PARTICIPATE FELT MUTAGENICITY SCREENING WOULD BE PART OF BASE SET OF TESTS AND HOPED FOR EARLY DELIBERATION ON THIS. FRANCE WILL SEND PARTICIPANTS FROM CANCER CENTER IN LYON AND PASTEUR INSTITUTE. JAPAN COULD NOT COMMIT TO FEB. MEETING BUT WISHES TO CONTRIBUTE IN AREAS OF MUTAGENICITY, CARCINO-

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GENICITY.

E) SWEDEN WILL LEAD THE SIXTH EXPERT GROUP WHICH WILL DEFINE THE BASE LINE SET OF DATA FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF A CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE. IT WILL ALSO STUDY EXISTING AND PLANNED STEP SEQUENCE TESTING SYSTEMS AND ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR INITIATING THE DIFFERENT STEPS AS WELL AS DISTINGUISH TYPES OF STEP SYSTEMS NEEDED IN VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

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THE AIM OF ALL OF THESE GROUPS IS TO ACHIEVE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS A HARMONIZED SET OF TESTS WITH AGREED CRITERIA FOR INITIATING THE VARIOUS STEPS. ALTHOUGH ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH A GOAL IN ITS ENTIRETY WITHIN THE NECESSARY TIME FRAME IS FAR FROM CERTAIN, THIS NEW MAJOR UNDERTAKING BY MOST OF THE MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS REPRESENTS THE BEST HOPE WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE. SUGGEST ALL CONCERNED FEDERAL AGENCIES CAREFULLY REVIEW POSSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EFFORT. UNDERSTAND D.O.S. PLANS EARLY MEETING TO CORRDINATE U.S. INPUT.

OTHER ACTIONS INCLUDED: AGREEMENT TO HOLD TECHNICAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW RESULTS OF WILDLIFE SAMPLING PROGRAM
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NOTE: THIS IS ONLY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM OF WILD LIFE SPECIES AS INDICATORS OF TRENDS IN

LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION. UNEP EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REVIEWING PROGRAM AND U.S. SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER IT MERITS CALLING FOR UNEP TO TAKE ON FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY AS LOGICAL PART OF GEMS. CONSENSUS THAT SECRETARIAT NEEDS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO PROPERLY SUPPORT TESTING HARMONIZATION PROGRAM. U.S. SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO PUSH FOR INCREASED FUNDING AT NOV. 30 ENVIRONMENT MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, CHEMICALS
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 584639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD 15TH MEETING CHEMICALS GROUP, NOV. 2-5, 1977 SUMMARY REPORT FROM I. FULLER TO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM.
TAGS: SENV, OECD
To: COPENHAGEN BONN
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009